

# Leary obtains heart defibrillators for district

Most teenagers already face the burdens of homework, sports, activities, and anything else that a high school student's life throws at them. However, Danielle Leary, currently a junior at Shrewsbury High School, was able to get several automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in-

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HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR



stalled for the district with grants and donations from local health care foundations. The Fallon Community Health Plan presented a \$3,500 check at a school committee meeting in October. Soon after, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the UMass Memorial Emergency Medical Service also made donations that combined for more than \$10,000, including the Fallon grant. The AED units will be placed in Shrewsbury public schools.

Danielle first became aware of the AED situation after reading a newspaper article about a referee who collapsed from a heart attack during a Wellesley High School football game. Luckily, the visiting coach brought an AED and was able to save the referee's life. The story inspired her to start her own project to put them in district schools. After careful research, Danielle sought donations from several health care institutions in Massachusetts to pay for the AED units, which cost \$2,600 each. After approving her applications and donating money, several institutions were very enthusiastic about her cause. In addition to paying for the equipment, the money that she received will also include training, vital to the operation of an AED. However, she is still hoping to achieve the ultimate goal of having an AED in every school in the district.

Her attempts to potentially save lives have caught the attention of the Shrewsbury community and made Danielle a relatively well-known figure. She has received the praise of the school community, Dr. Gutekanst, and *The Shrewsbury Chronicle*. However, she said, "It hasn't been that much more attention, but the project has given me more confidence in public speaking." Her attempts at getting donations have given



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

*Danielle Leary holds one of the new defibrillators which have been distributed throughout the school system.*

her a chance to speak in front of groups, such as the presentation she made to the school committee in October. Consequently, she says, "I'm not as shy as I used to be, and I'm more confident when talking about important issues." Confidence in terms of communication isn't the only thing that she has acquired. "When I first started this, I wasn't sure if I would be successful. However, it gave me the confidence knowing that if I tried, things would

work out," she said.

When looking towards the future, Danielle also hopes to start a medical club that would provide training for the devices for members of the entire school community. In addition to that, Danielle also has the responsibilities and burdens of every other high school student. Her accomplishments have made her a special student who gives inspiration to those with similar ambitions.

## Shrewsbury Public Schools' notice of non-discrimination

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is required by the Massachusetts Department of Education to publish an annual statement of non-discrimination. This notice serves to meet that requirement.

The Massachusetts Equal Educational Opportunity statute, General Laws Chapter 76, & 5, ensures that all students have the right to equal educational opportunities in the public schools. The Shrewsbury Public School District is committed to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools is in compliance with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment.

The complete Statement of Non-discrimination can be obtained by contacting Superintendent's Office of the Shrewsbury School Department at 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545 or by calling 508-841-8400 to request a copy.



PHOTO BY DAWNA ALPHONSE

*Sara DiGiorgio, Shrewsbury High School director of science and technology, recently received the Department of Education's Distinguished Secondary Educators Award. She was one of 40 Massachusetts teachers to be honored.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HARLOW FAMILY COLLECTION

*The Harlow house on Gulf Street in the 1940s.*

## Housing Starts

August-5  
September-11  
October-15  
November-5

